

MAXIMIZING LEGAL ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND LEARNING DISABILITIES

Friday, June 3, 2005 - MCLE

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS IN CHILDREN**

Presentation will detail the symptoms, progression, and treatment of ADHD, PTSD, Depression, and Bipolar Disorder in children, focusing on how kids with these disorders are most likely to get into trouble and be helped. Particular attention will be paid to recognizing unmet needs, treatment options including medications, and the importance of school safety assessments.

Nancy Rappaport, M.D., Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School. Director of School Programs, Cambridge Health Alliance.

10:30 **NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AND LEARNING DISABILITIES**

Experienced pediatric neuropsychologist/attorney will discuss how and when neuropsychological assessments are completed, how attorneys can interpret and use them as advocacy tools, as well as their drawbacks and limitations. Her presentation will include information on how to recognize and work with children with the most common learning disabilities.

Anita J. Pliner, Ph.D., J.D., Private Practice, Arlington

11:45 **AGGRESSION AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

Dr. Connor will concentrate on the identification, definition, risk factors, prevention and treatment of maladaptive aggression in children and adolescents. The goal is to improve advocacy on behalf of children who may not be receiving appropriate help for aggressive behavior.

Daniel F. Connor, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

12:30 LUNCH

1:30 **LEGISLATIVE PLANS AND PROSPECTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH POLICY**

Rep. Ruth B. Balser, Newton. Chair, Committee on Substance Abuse and Mental Health

2:00 **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE: STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND CASE LAW**

Learn about changes in special education practice arising from IDEA 2004 and state regulation and rule changes, in particular, changes to legal protections around discipline and due process. Hear analysis of useful and significant case law developments. This session will improve advocacy for professionals working in the juvenile court in representing students with emotional impairments.

Tim Sindelar, J.D., Bowman, Moos, and Hilton

3:30 **THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING WITH SCHOOLS AND STATE AGENCIES**

Find out what DSS is doing on behalf of children with mental health needs. Hear tips on advocating for IEP services and appropriate discipline on behalf of your child client in DSS custody or involved in C&P or CHINS cases. Better understand concerns for your client from the parent's perspective. This panel presentation will expose obstacles to and offer strategies towards obtaining appropriate services from schools and the state for children with mental illness and learning disabilities.

Susan M. Getman, LICSW, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Brigid Kennedy-Pfister, J.D., Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Donna Welles, Executive Director, Parent Professional Advocacy League